8th September 1959]

Sarada Act

* 185 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the number of cases reported, investigated and convicted under the Sarada Act in the State in the years 1957 and 1958?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Five cases were filed for contravention of the provisions of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, two in 1957 and three in 1958. Thirty persons were involved in these cases and of them six were convicted and the rest acquitted or discharged.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that child marriages are still conducted in the villages and if so what are the steps taken by the Government to enforce the law more rigorously?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the Government are taking every step to enforce the law but it is for the Members to take interest. Otherwise all these cases may not be brought to the notice of the Government.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is there any proposal to increase the marriageable age of the girls from 14 to 16 under this Act?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have no information.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, what is the *modus operandi* this Government adopt to detect crimes under this Act? Do Government wait for some complaints to be received from the interested people or from the parents or any other agency, which keeps a watch over these crimes?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I will refer the hon. Member, who is a student of Law to the relevant provisions of this Act?

Vanamahotsavam

* 186 *Q.*—SRI S. LAZAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount spent by the Government in the State for the Vanamahotsava festival in 1957–58; and

(*b*) the amount set apart or spent to maintain the trees planted during the said year?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Rs. 16,926·48 nP.

(*b*) Rs. 932.68 nP.

SRI S. LAZAR : ஸார், வன மகோத்சவத்துக்காக இந்த அளவு செலவிடும்போது அதைத் தொடர்ந்து பாதுகாப்பதற்காக, பராமரிப்பதற்காக பணம் ஒதுக்க முன் வருமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : பாதுகாப்பதும் கவனிக்கப் பட்டு வருகிறது. முன்பே ஒரு முறை விடையளித்திருக்கிறேன். இந்த மாதிரி நடக்கூடிய மரங்களில் பெரும் பகுதி பராமரிக்கப்பட்டே வருகிறது.